

**Question for written answer E-009740/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Fernando Maura Barandiarán (ALDE)

Subject: Nuclear submarines in Gibraltar

The presence of nuclear submarines in the port of Gibraltar poses a risk to the safety of the civilian population of Gibraltar and the hundreds of thousands of people who live on the Spanish side of the border. Environmental organisations such as 'Ecologistas en acción' have been protesting at the significant increase in the number of visits and stays by submarines. In some cases, such as HMS Ambush, the area had to be cordoned off because dangerous waste was being handled.

1. Have the British authorities informed the Commission of any civil protection plan to protect Community citizens on both sides of the border in the event of a nuclear emergency?
2. Does the Commission believe that Article 168 TFEU could provide the basis for taking some kind of measure, either on its own initiative or to foster cooperation between states, in order to prevent any risk to the physical health of the civilian population on both sides of the border?
3. Environmental groups have voiced suspicions that the increasing presence of nuclear submarines in Gibraltar could be a result of opposition to their presence in Scottish naval bases, owing to the risks they pose. If these suspicions are confirmed, does the Commission believe that it can take any initiatives to avert the risk posed by nuclear submarines for the population of another, entirely uninvolved Member State?